



McCULLY/MOILIILI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 8

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813
PHONE (808) 527-5749 • FAX (808) 527-5760 • INTERNET: <http://www.honolulu.gov>

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2006

KING WILLIAM LUNALILO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Ron Lockwood called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. with members present, which constituted a quorum. Chair Lockwood informed the large group that there are no bathrooms available due to the renovations happening at Lunalilo Elementary School.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Scott Cheever, Linda Dela Cruz (departed 9:45 p.m.), Albert Furuto, Gordon Furuto, Les Hata, Serena Kyi-Yim, Betty Lou Larson, Chair Ron Lockwood, Deepak Nuepane (departed 9:02 p.m.), Shaunna Tabor, Clifton Takamura (departed 8:45 p.m.), Michael Taleff, Stephanie Visaya Bose (8:47-9:36 p.m.), Marijane Carlos.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Elaine Akau, Rodney Evans, Eliza Talbot.

GUEST: George Iwosaki (Ala Wai Plaza), Brian Taniguchi (State Senate), Poni Daines (Sen. Taniguchi's office), Harry Chu, Shirley Koczan, Bob Oda (Kamehameha Schools), R. Kam (HPD), A. De Lima (HPD), K. Ciparro (HPD), W. Lum (HPD), Tara Young (Kamehameha Schools), June Mastich, Keith Ishinaga (BWS), Eric La'a (Rep. Nishimoto's office), S. Fulton (K. Vista), Ann Kobayashi (City Council), John Steelquist (NB #10 –Makiki), Tom Heinrich, Carl Lill, Carol Fukunaga (State Senate), Pat Lee (HHCTCP), Scott Saiki (State Representative), Rebecca Ryan (Moiliili Community Center), Rep. Scott Nishimoto, John K., D. Murai, Dave E. Chun, Taliilagi Salima, Syl Kop (HSC), Vanessa Matautia (Neighborhood Commission Office Staff).

PUBLIC SAFETY INPUT AND COMMUNITY LIAISON

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) Statistics and update on rebuilding of Fire Station for Engine 29 and Ladder 29.

1. Statistics for June – There were 10 structure, 2 brush, 2 vehicle, and 9 rubbish fires with 51 medical calls, no calls for search and rescue, and 25 miscellaneous emergencies.
2. Fire Safety Tip – Take the time to childproof your home, especially since keiki are on summer vacation. Check for potentially dangerous situations, i.e., electrical shock, accidental falls, or poisoning from medications, cleaning fluids, and houseplants. Keep matches and lighters in a safe place and out of the reach of small children.

Questions, answers, and comments

1. S. Koczan asked about illegal dumping happening on Lawaa Street near the fire hydrant and how could residents force the property manager to clean it up on a regular basis. HFD reported that the State Department of Health (DOH) should be called due to the smell and the manager could be fined if it is found to be at an unhealthy level.
2. Scott asked a question regarding a fire in the McCully Moiliili area.
3. Al Furuto asked if there was the possibility of opening up additional parking at the school. He also inquired about the retrofitting of all high rise buildings. Furuto will be providing a resolution regarding the retrofitting of all high rises.
4. Point of Order was called by Chair Lockwood because Furuto's statement was not a question and the resolution needs 12 votes to be added to the agenda.



5. Chief Perkins gave the update for the McCully Fire station. A few more permits are required before demolition can start of the current fire station and an alternative site will be used for the duration of construction which will be east of La'au street. The Department of Design and Construction (DDC) will begin sometime in October.
6. Novak asked whether the response time from the new site of the McCully Fire Station would increase the response time. HFD reported that the response time would stay relatively the same.
7. Heinrich asked about the alternative site and Chief Perkins reported that it is a city yard of the Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM). The station will open 1 year from October '06
8. S. Cheever asked whether archival photos were taken of the McCully Station because of it being a historical building. HFD reported that DDC will be taking pictures for historical purposes.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) - District 1- Officer Robertson reported the following:

The statistics were read to the Board and highlighted.

Questions, answers and comments:

1. Al Furuto questioned the empty lot on Kalakaua Blvd and the graffiti that is rampant in the area and what HPD was doing to curb the activity. Plain unit officers in unmarked cars are patrolling the area in an effort to curb the activity and catch offenders in the act.
2. Carl Furuto inquired about the traffic accident on H-1 and how much of the traffic was diverted to surface streets in the area. He questioned why District 1 didn't ask other district provide help in keeping traffic moving.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) - District 7- East Honolulu:

The three beats within the McCully/Moiliili area were divided among the beats and the break down goes as listed; Beat 753 had an increase of 1 incident for burglaries, a decrease of 3 thefts for July from June and a decrease of 3 UEMV. Beat 754 for the month of July had an increase of 4 burglaries, the same amount of thefts and an increase of 6 UEMV from the month of June. The Beat 755 for the month of July decreased by 2 burglaries, 1 increase for thefts and 1 increase of UEMV from the month of June.

Questions, answers, comments

1. Tabor asked about an incident of vehicle theft and vandalism at 2439 Kapiolani BlvdIt has been going on 5 weeks and asks whether or not there are any possible suspects. HPD officers would look into the incident and report back regarding the UEMV.
2. Takamura commented that the freeway seemed like it was closed for a large portion of the evening. HPD reported that the freeway was closed from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Clifton also reported on the HPD's inability to help motorists move their way through traffic and HPD commented that such incidents happen that are out of their control.
3. Carlos asked what the definition of a camper used by HPD is because of the large problem of homeless who make camp on the McCully/Kalakaua promenade. HPD have come out to deal with the drug dealers who have spotters that communicate with whistles and scouts on mopeds.
4. Kyi-Yim commented unless District 1 helping with traffic control. Friday's traffic was horrendous on Kalakaua, S. King and Phillips.



5. R. Larosa thanked HPD for curbing the drinking problem at the McCully recreation center.
6. L. Novak asked whether there was any information regarding the slashing of several cars on Lime and McCully by homeless individuals. She also asked if there was any information regarding the stealing of mangoes from her neighbor's yard. HPD stated that the owner of the tree would have to make a formal complaint regarding the stolen mangoes.

University of Hawaii at Manoa (UH-Manoa) Representative – Jim Manke reported the following:

- A. The demolition of Frear Hall is complete. There is a final permit that is needed and will go before full City Council on August 16. The new hall will begin construction in spring and will be ready for occupancy during the Fall '08 semester.
- B. There will be commencement ceremonies for UH at the end of the month.
- C. Fall semester begins for the UH system again on Monday August 21 and there is a hotline set up for questions and concerns at 956-9900.
- D. Any further questions, please contact at manke@hawaii.edu or (808) 956-6099.

Kamehameha Schools – Bob Oda and Tara Young reported the following: Oda and Young introduced themselves to the McCully Moiliili NB and would continue their visits regarding the McCully Moiliili land assets held by Kamehameha Schools. Young is charged with supervising the day to day management of the assets in Moiliili and hoped to have an open discussion with residents and Board members in order to accommodate the needs of the community. The current project that Young highlighted was the cleanup of the Pucks Alley property. Security has been increased to 20 hours a day and professional cleaners have been to the property in order to begin maintenance with further renovations several months out.

Questions, comments and concerns:

1. Heinrich thanked Kamehameha Schools for their discussion and comments regarding the Moiliili town center which is the entry point to Manoa.
2. S. Cheever asked if there were plans to enforce the smoking ban that is to take affect in November. Young hoped that all of the leasing businesses would follow the mandated laws.
3. C. Takamura asked regarding the grassy lot near the freeway on Coolidge and Isenberg and asked if any development would be put on that lot. Young reported that 2 buildings have been repaired and upgraded and the parcel is that the ground is leased. Young commented that the property is still in the process for plans and could not comment on the
4. Senator Taniguchi questioned the status of the Varsity Motors property that has been in the area since 1965. The lease expired on the property on September 30th and the adjacent parcel is also coming back to Kamehameha Schools by the end of September. The intent for the lot is to use it as a parking lot for the area with busy restaurants and several apartment buildings in the area.
5. L. Dela Cruz comments on plans for Puck Alley and Young reported that those plans will need to come back in front of the Board and they hope to have some transparency and open dialogue in the 3 to 6 months it will take for the Pucks Alley renovation.
6. B. Larson asked if there plans for affordable housing/rentals for the area. Oda reported that due to the limitations of the area since it is an established community, it would be a lengthy process but they are looking at several different opportunities.



7. Chair Lockwood asked how often would KS/BE attend meetings and if they would bring a visual of property owned in Moiliili. They will attend monthly and bring visual guides.
8. B. Larson commented on the "face of Moiliili" Character of Moiliili is the best part. Young recognized that the area is in need of becoming pedestrian friendly and mentioned the several projects that would allow for a better feel of pedestrian friendliness.

Mayor's Representative – Danny Agsalog reported the following: Reported on June's report.

Questions, comments and concerns:

1. Bulky items were not picked up 2 weeks ago.
2. L. Novak asked about the status of the work order to DFM. Agsalog will follow up on this request with DFM.
3. C. Takamura requested that traffic lights be synchronized on King Street from McCully to University. He also requested that there be a turning signal on McCully to allow for better traffic flow.
4. A. Furuto announced that the crew working on the Makiki stream had removed nearly 4 feet of sludge. He had gone down to help in the process and the crew had gone onto private property and broken a wall in order to gain access to the stream. Furuto questioned whether the Board was liable because he was present as a Board member and helped in the process. Chair Lockwood stated the Neighborhood Board Revised Plan Section 4-5.2 (a) 1 "It shall be the duty of the chairperson to serve as spokesperson and representative of the Board". A. Furuto was not there as a representative of the McCully – Moiliili N.B. #8.
5. Kyi-Yim thanked the City for the work that was started and for the continuing support of the area in helping with the cleanup of Makiki Stream. Agsalog thanked the Council Budget Chair Ann Kobayashi for her help in gaining funds necessary to alleviating this problem.
6. R. Larosa asked that the trees overhanging the Makiki Stream be maintained.
7. L. Novak thanked for help on the March 31st event.
8. A. Furuto thanked the City and Kobayashi for help with the dredging of Makiki Stream.
9. Chair Lockwood thanked the City & County of Honolulu for its dredging work within the Makiki Stream.
10. C. Takamura commented on the Honolulu Municipal Building name change ordinance that was passed and asked to please pass along to the Mayor that he was moved by his speech on Mr. Fasi at the dedication.
11. L. Novak questioned the status 3 months ago regarding the weight HI- 5 recycling program. Agsalog reported that this request for information would have to go to State Officials.
12. A. Furuto asked about the liability of children helping in the clean-up of McCully Stream bed. It was explained that children are NOT allowed in the stream during clean-ups.

Governor's Representative – Dwayne Kunimoto reported the following:

1. The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations has a new website for employers as well as job seekers. Please visit www.hawaii.gov/labor and click on the link to the new website.



2. On Tuesday August 29, the Governor will be hosting the 3rd annual International Women's Leadership Conference "Women with no Limits". There are several key speakers at the conference with registration at 7:30 a.m. and will convene at 4:30 p.m. For more information please visit www.iwlchi.org.

Questions, concerns and comments:

1. Gordon Furuto offered his appreciation be forwarded to Linda Smith and her help with the stream clean up from the State side.

Board of Water Supply: Keith Ishinaga reported the following: a) There were no main breaks for the month of July. b) The Water Emergency Procedures Handout was passed out that included information about what BWS personnel do in the event of a water emergency, plus other water emergency tips. c) Beginning on July 15, the Water rate increase will be included in Water Bills and will go into effect on October 1. d) An information session will be available for NB members on Saturday, September 30, 2006 at the Mission Memorial auditorium from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Board members can expect a letter or email from us within the next month with more information e) The Water Conservation tip for the month is while fertilizers promote plant growth, they also increase water consumption, Apply the minimum amount of fertilizer needed. f) Saturday August 5, the Xeriscape Gardens in Halawa will be having a "Unthirsty Plant" sale from 9 to 3. For more information, please call the Board of Water Supply at 748-5041.

Elected Officials

Councilmember Ann Kobayashi reported the following:

1. Council woman Kobayashi reported on several projects master plan extra money from council services. With university help.
2. Property tax relief has come for the City in the form of the \$200 refunds. There are possibly several opportunities that the refund or tax cut will be further reaching for the upcoming year for those on fixed and low income.

Questions, answers, and comments

1. S. Cheever commented that the expectations of tax relief should also look at those who are homeless. They are many who are working members of society and are not homeless but houseless.
2. A. Furuto questioned the impact of the tax breaks for the community.
3. C. Takamura had basic concerns regarding the charter commission amendments and Chair reported that a meeting around September October will occur.
4. Chair Lockwood questioned about the removal of bus stops and the transportation committee. Councilwoman Kobayashi reported that the Isenberg and King bus stop was removed due to a danger to pedestrians in the area. There are three criteria in which would cause a bus stop to be removed a) pedestrian hazard b) mid block crosswalks c) Non- usage of the stop. Chair Lockwood will work with Kobayashi on the location of Moiliili bus stops.
5. Carlos commented that the Council has jumped on the "Mufi Train". It seemed to her to be the same information that was given on the previous try for mass transit in 1991 and believed that it was same sentiment that "We need mass transit – train not it". Kobayashi reported that the Board has hired its own consultant to review the transit plan that will come from the Hannemann administration.



6. Larsen asked about \$2 million that was released to the City from the State that was earmarked for homeless services. \$5 million was also released to the City several years ago and Larsen asked where those funds were and how were they spent. Kobayashi stated that this issue would be better answered by the City administration that is in direct contact with State.
7. L. Hata asked about the Bus Stop elimination resident closing near elderly home and were told that the Bus was trying to save money on fuel. DTS has tried to maintain a bus stop every 3 blocks.
8. A resident commented that Hawaii was ranked #7 in pedestrian fatality, #4 in bike fatalities and #1 in elderly fatalities in the country. He questioned whether the Board should have a resolution on pedestrian friendly areas. Kobayashi reported that the City is working with the State on making areas safe for pedestrians.

Senator Brain Taniguchi reported the following: Many of the topics were already discussed by other officials and would gladly take questions from the Board and the guests for Rep. Nishimoto, Rep. Caldwell, and himself.

Questions, answers, and comments

1. Carlos sends her appreciation for their work in the legislature.
2. S. Cheever commented on the mass transit.

Senator Carol Fukunaga reported the following:

District legislators from the Makiki/McCully area are sponsoring a community briefing on mass transit on Thursday September 14, 2006 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Washington Middle School. They will be looking at the four alternatives being studied and how a transit system will affect older, more solidified communities like that of McCully/Moiliili.

Questions, comments and concerns:

1. B. Larsen asked whether there was any temporary/emergency housing legislature. The status at the moment is that plans are in the forming stage.
2. Al commented on the need for a traffic solution for the area because during peak traffic times, the commute in the area is horrendous. He also commented that they can hopefully look at the synchronization of lights in order to help the flow of traffic.
3. S. Kop commented on the homeless issue in the community and questioned why a sweep is not being done. Located on Isenberg Street there is a large van with shaded tint parked permanently. The resident questioned whether it was considered a tent because it is becoming a problem. The bus has a "pee hole" where occupants are able to urinate without leaving the bus. Fukunaga replied that this would be something that could be looked into by the Department of Health. She also did not like the HPD racing thru the McCully Park. Al Furuto suggested that the resident contact DOH.
4. A resident asked whether there was a bias against bicycle riders because legislation does not come through.

FILL OF VANCANCY: Chair Lockwood reported that the Board had all seats filled.

PRESENTATIONS:



Honolulu High Capacity Transit Corridor Project –Pat Lee updated the Board on project findings and provided a power point presentation that overviewed the four alternatives (no-build, an enhanced bus system, managed lanes, and fixed guideways), possible routes with stations, park and rides, the areas that would be affected by the transit plans and a timeline in which it is being followed. In December, the City Council will vote on what is the locally preferred plan. The increase for the general excise tax to fund the mass transit system begins in January 2007.

Questions, comments and concerns:

1. Board member asked whether the project consulted the current census report. Lee stated that they indeed used the same census report that is used by the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO) for the proposed development plans.
2. B. Larsen asked about the fixed guideway that will help to get the University of Hawaii students moving. She commented that it seemed geared more towards them and residents were not being catered to.
3. Professor Jack Sidener is a professor of Architecture at UH who has taken over now as the campus planner. Professor Sidener stated that UH would like to see the plans for the UH station to be revamped. The project stated that it would come in over H-1 freeway up University Avenue at a projected height of over 60 feet in the area. He believed that UH has come up with a revised plan of having the fixed guideway move over to Varsity Street and having the station be on the makai side of H-1 freeway. It will be a depot from where buses will stop and forward onto the campus and requested that the underpass on Kalo Ave. be improved to provide this service.
4. B. Larsen questioned where the access would be located at for this alternative provided by UH. Professor Sidener explained that there have been several walkways that take students up to campus but there will be improvements made that will include lighting and benches. Lou asked if trees will be included in the project to provide shade for weary students on their walk to campus and Professor Sidener believed that would also be apart of the overall plan.
5. M. Carlos commented that she had fought the train coming into the University since it had been first put in front of voters' years back. She commented that it may benefit students with cheaper tickets she believed that it is still not good for Hawaii.
6. Inamine asked if there was a side view rendering of the fixed guideway on Kapiolani Blvd that would show some idea on how high it would be and what a station at the University district would look like. Lee stressed that the renderings now are not set in concrete and can be changed in order to fit the aesthetic look of the surrounding area. At this time it is only a planning stage and confirmed plans will be made after and only after community input is provided regarding this part of the process.
7. L. Hata questioned whether or not there would be Park & Rides available for transit riders, if the fixed guideway would have a portion that was ground level and what would happen if ancient burial grounds were exhumed on property used for the transit project. Lee reported that there would be numerous Park & Rides along the transit corridor and a portion of the fixed guideway would more than likely run on streets like Hotel in downtown. As far as ancient burial sites, Lee reported that this would be a topic that could possibly come up in the future.
8. S. Cheever questioned the route and the possibility of radically altering the neighborhood and questioned whether the EPA analysis fair cursory report was detailed and thorough.
9. D. Murai asked out of the 4 alternatives provided tonight, which would be the most cost effective. Lee reported that the elevated system was most cost effective because it would receive Federal funding.
10. A. Furuto commented that the University Ave. station for UH was not a likeable project for the area due to it's being so high.



Kyi-Kim motioned to move end of meeting to 10:00 p.m. seconded by Fox and unanimously approved.

11. Carlos asked if an elevator would provide ADA compliancy for the fixed guideway. Lee reported that there would be ADA compliancy throughout the project with specifics being shared at a later time and date.
12. Dave Chun voiced his opposition against any sort of fixed rail that would go through the McCully Moiliili neighborhood. Chun stated that UH officials have not taken the surrounding areas into consideration while creating expansion plans for UH.
13. Al Furuto asked whether the availability of having the fixed guideway move 15 feet above the freeway and Lee reported that there are several points at which the fixed guideway is proposed to so.
14. Lee asked if the project was in conjunction with efforts made by OMPO. Lee reported that the project was subcontracted out to Parsons Brinkerhoff Inc. EIS phase tweaking? Yes.
15. D. Chun commented on whether a Benefits community package was in the work but Lee could not comment as he did not have information regarding plans for such a package.
16. D. Murai questioned the Kapiolani Blvd. specifics such as the width of pillars for the fixed guideway. Lee reiterated the project is in the initial phases and have not gotten to such specifics.
17. A. Furuto asked if the rail transit project is not picked, would this effectively kill the GET surcharge. Lee stated that there are Federal mandates for matching funds from City and State municipalities in order to receive Federal funds. If the project that is picked for consideration is not rail transit, then the surcharge will be revoked.

RESIDENTS' CONCERNS

1. Kyi-Yim requested that the Stop line at the corner of Kuikahi and Citron be re-painted as it is becoming hard for motorists to see the line and that the Stop Sign be replaced as well.
2. A. Furuto requested that certificates of appreciation be made for those who participated within the cleanup of Makiki Stream.

HOUSEKEEPING - Chair Lockwood read the several points on the Housekeeping agenda to the Board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Board passed unanimously a motion to sponsor a booth at Moiliili day made by Carlos and 2nd by Larsen.

NEW BUSINESS

TREASURER - Deferred

Meeting Adjourns at 10:02 p.m.



Submitted By:

Vanessa Matautia
Neighborhood Assistant

